

COURSE BRIEF

1. Title

III International Comprehensive Course on Clinical Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis for African Countries

2. Dates: 25 to 29 June 2012

3. Location: Swakopmund, Namibia

4. Language: English

5. Number of participants (maximum): 30

6. Brief background

The global challenge of multidrug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), and more recently, extensively drug resistant-tuberculosis (XDR-TB), has attracted increasing attention and resources in recent years. As a result, many countries are embarking on treatment programs for drug-resistant tuberculosis within their National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) activities. However, the knowledge and skills required to effectively implement treatment programs for drug-resistant tuberculosis is insufficient in many countries. Furthermore, the training opportunities addressing this important area have not kept pace with the increase in resources for treatment activities.

The primary objective of this course is to provide clinicians working in low and middle income settings with the knowledge and skills to effectively manage cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis, especially MDR-TB. The course will also introduce participants to the challenges introduced by XDR-TB. Finally, the course will introduce the approach to treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis from a program perspective.

The 5-day intensive training course consists of presentations, discussions and practical exercises provided by internationally renowned experts in the field of drug resistant tuberculosis. The in-class activities will use a format of lectures and interactive learning. The course will provide a detailed review of epidemiologic, biologic, clinical, diagnosis (laboratory procedures and others), principles of treatment and programmatic components of drug resistant tuberculosis. Moreover, field visits to some MDR-TB management facilities and to the National Reference Laboratory of Namibia will be organized, where there will be an analysis and discussion of complicated MDR/XDR-TB cases.

7. Target audience

The course is primarily targeted to clinicians working in middle- and low-income settings who are responsible for the clinical management of MDR-TB cases. The course will also be of great value to NTP staff and other technical partners implementing tuberculosis control activities in settings where clinical management of drug resistant tuberculosis is being introduced/expanded.

8. Objectives

After completing the course, participants should be able to:

- Describe the current global epidemiologic situation of drug resistant tuberculosis
- Describe the biologic characteristics and conditions of *M. tuberculosis* growth and the nature of resistance of the organism to anti-tuberculosis medications
- Review the different approaches to case finding for drug resistant tuberculosis and the prioritization of these approaches in different settings
- List the strengths and weaknesses of various diagnostic approaches for MDR/XDR-TB, including the value and limitations of drug sensitivity testing for various first- and second-line anti-tuberculosis medications
- Explain the principles of MDR/XDR-TB treatment, including numbers of drugs, duration of treatment, and individualized versus standardized treatment approaches
- Describe the mechanism of action of the main anti-tuberculosis medications available for MDR-TB treatment
- Recognize the most common adverse reactions to second-line anti-tuberculosis medications and list their appropriate management
- Review the management of MDR-TB in special populations, such as HIV co-infection and pregnancy
- Analyse the drug resistance problem in a given setting to determine the best treatment approach for a NTP
- Discuss the common challenges and potential solutions for managing drug resistant tuberculosis from a programmatic perspective

9. Facilitators

The course will be facilitated by two main facilitators from The Union, complemented by facilitators from the Namibia NTP. The course will be led by The Union's Dr. Jose Antonio Caminero, a global leader in the field of clinical management of drug resistant tuberculosis. Dr. Caminero also brings many years of experience as a key member of the World Health Organization's Green Light Committee (GLC) and has extensively reviewed projects on treatment of drug resistant tuberculosis worldwide.

10. What costs will be required to participate in the course?

- No tuition fee will apply to international and national participants sponsored by TB CARE coalition partners.
- A tuition fee of 1000 euros will apply to non TB CARE partner international participants.
- International participants will also be responsible (either independently or through a sponsor) for financing their travel, visa, travel insurance, airport transportation, accommodation, and per diem.

11. How to apply for the course?

- Applicants will need to submit **by 15 April 2012** an online application and a curriculum vitae (PDF format) using the following link:
<http://registration.theunion.org/useraccount/?currserv=Cours&crscod=TECH-74>
- Results of the selection process will be communicated to all applicants **by 5 May 2012**.

For additional information, please contact technical-courses@theunion.org